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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,919	11/28/2001	David Sullivan	EMC 01-26(01067)	1157

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EXAMINER

HAN, YOUNGHUE JESSICA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2838

DATE MAILED 09/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,919

Applicant(s)

SULLIVAN ET AL

Examiner

Y J Han

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

- 1) ☐ Title: References cited in the specification.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-94a).
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s):

- 4) ☐ Other: (Indicate in Remarks section)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121.

I. Claims 1-18, drawn to an apparatus and a method for providing a set of soft start power signals to operating circuitry mounted on a circuit board, classified in Class 363, subclass 49.

II. Claims 19-27, drawn to an apparatus and a method for providing a set of power signals to operating circuitry mounted on a circuit board, classified in Class 363, subclass 65.

III. Claims 28-30 drawn to an apparatus having a control circuit being configured to open the overvoltage protection switch when the output voltage value exceeds a predetermined threshold, classified in Class 361, subclass 91.1.

IV. Claims 31-33, drawn to a circuit board providing an output power signal, the output power signal having (i) a regulated voltage value regardless of a value of the input power signal when the control register stores the first control value, and (ii) a margined voltage value based on the value of the input power signal when the control register stores the second control value that is different than the first control value, classified in Class 323, subclass 349.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, II, III, and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as useable in a single

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comprising an interconnection mechanism which is configured to electrically connect a first controller of a first circuit with a second controller of a second circuit, wherein the first controller is configured to disable a first converter when the second control signal indicates that the second converter improperly provides a second soft start power signal, and wherein a second controller is configured to disable a second converter when the first control signal indicates that the first converter improperly provides the first soft start power signal; invention II has separate utility such as in an apparatus for providing a set of power signals to operating circuitry mounted on a circuit board by directing a first converter to adjust a first power signal based on a second current indication signal provided by a second controller, and directing a second converter to adjust a second power signal based on a first current indication signal provided by the first controller ; invention III has separate utility such as in an apparatus for providing a power signal to operating circuitry mounted on a circuit board wherein a control circuit being configured to open the overvoltage protection switch when the output voltage value exceeds a predetermined threshold; and invention IV has separate utility such as in a circuit board providing an output power signal, the output power signal having (i) a regulated voltage value regardless of a value of the input power signal when the control register stores the first control value, and (ii) a margined voltage value based on the value of the input power signal when the control register stores the second control value that is different than the first control value. See (MPEP 806 05(d)).

3 Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a

4 Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Y. J. Han whose telephone number is 703-308-0109. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 5:30am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 703-308-1680. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

  
Y. J. Han